

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Levant/Palestine

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1948

SUBJECT The Druzes Decide Not to Fight
in Palestine Until British Withdrawal

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. It is reported that a meeting held in the house of Rashid Bey Hamadah in Mt. Lebanon on 8 February was attended by about 100 Druzes. At this meeting Ali Atrash, former Druze Deputy in the Syrian Chamber of Deputies, read a letter which had been sent by Sultan Pasha Atrash. Atrash advised the Druzes not to interfere in the Palestine fighting, and specifically, not to fight the British forces there. The Druzes should wait to see if the British troops actually do leave Palestine, and only after their withdrawal should the Druzes help in driving the Jews out of Palestine. However, Atrash approved of Druze financial aid to Palestinian Arabs. He did not approve of the actions of the Druzes led by Shakib Abd-al-Wahab who have already gone to Palestine, accusing them of being interested in loot.
2. The Druzes have decided to follow the advice of Sultan Pasha Atrash rather than that of Amir Majid Arslan, Lebanese Minister of Defense, and Amir Adil Arslan, member of the Syrian Chamber of Deputies, who reportedly for personal reasons are urging the Druzes to join Arab forces in Palestine now.

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